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MINORITY CAUCUS
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

August 25, 2014

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler and FCC Commissioners:

I am writing to you as a state legislator from Georgia and as President Emeritus of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators to express my support for the proposed merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable.

Comcast's track record in supporting diversity and independent programming is second to none and this merger could help ensure that more predominantly Black communities can benefit from the company's efforts.

In 2011, I wrote in support of the Comcast-NBCUniversal merger, arguing that it would promote diversity in a variety of ways. Since the merger, Comcast has increased hiring of women and people of color to comprise 40 percent of its total workforce, facilitated the creation of five new independent, minority-owned networks and set up a diversity advisory council to advise on matters of importance to the civil rights community.

Recently I requested and read Comcast-NBCUniversal publication, seeing the bigger picture. That publication allowed me to see first-hand their plan for diversity and inclusion across the company post merger. I agree when they say that "diversity and inclusion is Comcast's Compass for success".

Comcast states that the Time Warner Cable transaction will be good for economic growth and good for businesses, and I believe that the impact of their previous transactions support this claim, particularly in communities of color. The NBCUniversal transaction boosted contracts with minority-owned suppliers by 20 percent, positively affecting some of the communities hardest hit by the economic downturn. The Time Warner Cable merger could give Comcast the scale it needs to accelerate these industry-leading diversity efforts to more Americans.

The company has also promised to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into upgrading networks in the markets it acquires. This will mean that small businesses in urban areas will have access to more advanced services and broadband speeds currently as high as 10 GBPS. These investments are critical to our communities and should be strongly encouraged. The proposed merger promises to create a new national choice for phone and Internet service that offers lower prices, benefitting both businesses and Individuals.

Comcast has established that it can deliver on its promises, whether it is a commitment to bridge the digital divide or a pledge to increase diversity throughout its employee ranks. I urge the Commission to approve this transaction. If I can be of further service, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cal. Smyre".

Rep. Calvin Smyre
Georgia House of Representatives

CS/rgh